

Remarks

This paper accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. Several claims are amended, and all amendments to the claims are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants hereby request further consideration and examination.

Applicants submit that support for the amendments to independent claims 1 and 15 is found at least in the supporting description.

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-19, 21-24 and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious and unpatentable over Livingston in view of Lobiondo. In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. It is respectfully submitted that Livingston and Lobiondo, either singularly or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest specifying a balanced media exit pattern that distributes media for the print job in a generally equal manner between different output destinations as claimed in amended independent claims 1 and 15 in conjunction with a jam indicator. Since Livingston and Lobiondo fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of the independent claims, accordingly, it also fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of any of the dependent claims.

The following statement was made in the rejection: "Livingston does not disclose expressly that said central processing unit specifies a balanced media exit pattern that distributes media for the print job in a generally equal manner between different output destinations." Independent claims 1 and 15 as well as new claims 29-31 are amended by this paper to include a destination control, such as a "jam identifier" to support the selection of one of the output designations. This is supported by the detailed description (page 6, lines 18-22, pages 17-18, lines 26 to 26) and Figures 8 (see discussion on pages 21, lines 22-30) and 9 (see discussion on pages 22, lines 13-20) as well as in relation to Figures 2, 5 and 6 as discussed above. Applicants respectfully submit that this

amendment fully addresses the Examiner's concern since not only does "Livingston does not disclose expressly that said central processing unit specifies a balanced media exit pattern" but it does not disclose a jam identifier. Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-14 and 16-28 are also allowable for at least these reasons.

With respect to new independent claims 29-31, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable in their present form.

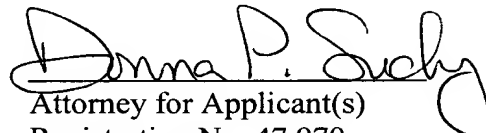
Claims 5, 11, 20 and 25 are also rejected as being obvious and as unpatentable over Livingston in view of Lobiondo and in further view of Mastie and Farrell. In response, Applicants repeat the arguments presented with respect to parent claim 1, and respectfully submit that Claims 5, 11, 20 and 25 are allowable for at least these reasons.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. It is respectfully submitted that Livingston and Mastie or Farrell, either singularly or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest specifying a balanced media exit pattern that distributes media for the print job in a generally equal manner between different output destinations as claimed in amended independent claims 1 and 15. Since Livingston and Mastie or Farrell fail to teach or suggest all the limitations of the independent claims, accordingly, it also fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of any of the dependent claims.

Finally, with respect to the combination of Livingston in view of Lobiondo, Mastie, and Farrell in all rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that neither provides sufficient objective motivation, for one of ordinary skill in the relevant art, to modify Livingston in the manner attempted.

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-31 are allowable in their present form and hereby request such allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.